



MONTANA STATE PRISON HEALTH SERVICES OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

Procedure No.: MSP HS C-06.0	Subject: INMATE WORKERS
Reference: NCCHC Standard P-C-06, 2015	Page 1 of 2 and no attachments
Effective Date: November 1, 2010	Revised: June 1, 2017
Signature / Title: /s/ Cindy Hiner / Health Services Manager	
Signature / Title: /s/ Tristan Kohut, D.O./ Medical Director	

I. PURPOSE

To describe guidelines for the utilization of inmates within the health care delivery system, and prohibit inmate workers from being utilized as health care workers and providing direct medical care for inmate patients.

II. DEFINITIONS

Activities of daily living (ADL) – generally refers to ambulation, bathing, dressing, feeding, and toileting.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Inmate Assignments

1. An inmate worker may be permitted to:
 - a. provide assistance in the facility health care unit with routine tasks (e.g., cleaning the floor) under the direct, visual supervision of staff;
 - b. inmate workers may be assigned to sit with inmate patients that are housed in the infirmary pending appropriate placement of the patients in special housing;
 - c. assemble blank health care record folders under the direct supervision of staff;
 - d. assist designated inmates with their ADL within the general population inmate housing units; and
 - e. participate in support groups that assist other inmates with health problems (e.g., hospice programs, buddy systems for potentially suicidal inmates, etc.).
2. Staff will not allow inmates to:
 - a. distribute or collect sick-call slips;
 - b. schedule appointments;
 - c. handle medical records, medications, or surgical instruments and sharps; or
 - d. provide direct patient care or make treatment decisions.
3. Inmate Worker Orientation:
 - a. prior to beginning their duties, the designated Correctional Healthcare Services Technician (CHST) will instruct/train each inmate worker on all required tasks;
 - b. the designated CHST will have the inmate sign his assignment description upon successfully completing the instruction/training; and
 - c. documentation of Inmate training will be tracked and kept by the designated CHST.

B. Security Precautions

1. Security procedures will be developed to ensure that inmates do not have access to:
 - a. needles;

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- b. syringes;
- c. sharps;
- d. medications;
- e. inmate health care records or files; or
- f. other prohibited items.

2. Security precautions will include:

- a. appropriate inventory procedures; and
- b. required supervision and routine searches of all inmates working in the health care unit.

IV. CLOSING

Questions concerning this operational procedure will be directed to the Health Services Manager.

V. ATTACHMENTS none